

Public Works Committee  
meeting of Tuesday, September 12, 2006  
Department of Public Works meeting room

#### Attendance

committee: Michael Cann, Vince O'Connor, Rob Crowner

Historical Commission: Edith Nye Macmullen, Gai Carpenter, Lyle Denig

#### 1. Agenda and minutes

The meeting comes to order at approximately 7:20pm. Members agree to put off review of previous minutes in order to immediately hear from the Historical Commission.

#### 2. South Amherst Common

Members of the Historical Commission update the committee on the results of the historical survey of the South Amherst Common conducted by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The HC notes that the Select Board has gone on record pledging to protect the town commons as of November 2005, and that in the opinion of town counsel the commons may be considered parks.

The HC suggests that a public hearing or hearings to review the PVPC report and the current status of the South Amherst Common study/preservation project be jointly sponsored by itself and the PWC, perhaps including discussion of the recent traffic circulation proposal. PWC members express a preference to not entangle the traffic and historical issues at this time. PWC members encourage HC to proceed with its own public hearing, to which PWC should be invited, and following which further plans might be devised.

The Historical Commission indicates that an initial public hearing may be held in late October.

#### 3. Old Business

a. East Pleasant Street: Rob reports that Bob Pariseau (not present) has stated that the first coat should be done by Friday.

b. Meadow Street Bridge: Vince reports that this project seems to be nearing completion.

c. Pelham Road Bridge: Vince reports that an eight-foot deep coal tar deposit has been discovered at the Northeast Utilities 21-E abatement site on the north side of the bridge. The Conservation Commission will make ruling on how this problem must be addressed, but it won't affect the PWC's preliminary recommendation to include a section of Pelham Road on the FY08 street repair schedule.

d. North Pleasant Street bump-outs: The committee agrees to make a recommendation on this matter by next Spring, before the design of the west side of North Pleasant Street is finalized.

4. Special Municipal Employee status

The committee discusses the implications and consequences of the SME law, but arrives at no decision regarding a possible request for SME status from the Select Board.

5. Downtown sidewalks

There will be a public hearing to review the plans for phase four of the downtown sidewalk project, east side of North Pleasant Street from Kellogg Avenue to the Carriage Shops, on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00pm in Town Hall. Vince moves, and the committee votes unanimously, to submit a formal recommendation to end sidewalk extensions at crosswalks at least 18-24 inches from adjacent bike lanes OR create wider bike lanes, as a matter of safety. Rob will draft a memo to present to the Select Board, Town Manager, and DPW.

6. The meeting adjourns at approximately 9:10pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 3.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert J. Crowner